

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-4, 6-13 and 15-21. Claims 5 and 14, which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 20 and 21, respectively. Accordingly, claims 5 and 14 have been canceled, and claim 15, which previously depended on claim 14, has been amended to depend on new claim 21 and to delete reference numerals. The remaining claims have also been amended to delete reference numerals. In addition, claims 11 and 13 have been amended to improve their form, and claim 19 has been amended to depend on claim 10. The specification has also been amended to add headings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The specification was objected to as lacking headings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to provide headings as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claim 13 to specify that --the at least two pipe parts are assembled to form-- a hollow space and have amended claim 19 to depend on claim 10 instead of claim 9. It is respectfully

submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on that basis be withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter; however, the remaining claims were rejected on the basis of the prior art. Specifically, claims 1, 6-9, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Jones et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0148427*. Claims 1-4 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *JP 2000-145552* in view of *Jones et al.*

In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 5 and 14 as new claims 20 and 21, respectively, and have amended claim 15 to depend on new claim 21. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 20 and 21 and claim 15 as amended, which depends on new claim 21, are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claims 1 and 9 as amended, Applicants' invention provides an intake manifold for a fresh air system of an internal combustion engine and a method for manufacturing same, wherein a joint is formed from a material integrally molded or injected into the area of the parting line to join together at least two pipe parts. In other words, the joint is a portion that is injection molded to the two pipe parts in the area of the parting line and is not a glue or an adhesive, but rather a plastic material that is injection molded within the area of the parting line.

Jones et al., relied on by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest injection molding of a plastic to provide the joint. In addition, as more specifically recited in Applicants' claims 4 and 11, respectively, the bellows section is designed together with the joint in one injection molded piece. *Jones et al.* fails to disclose or suggest one piece injection molding of the joint and the bellows section, because such a bellows section cannot be made of an adhesive as used in *Jones et al.* Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4 and 11 are patentable over *Jones et al.* for this additional reason.

The remaining reference to *JP 2000-145552* has been considered but is believed to be no more relevant. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the Japanese reference of an intake manifold or a method of manufacturing same in which a plastic material is injection molded to provide the joint.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 9 as amended, together with claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-13 and 16-19 which depend directly or indirectly on one of claims 1 and 9 as amended, are patentable over the cited references, together with new claims 20 and 21, and claim 15 as amended, which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19 have been amended, claims 5 and 14 have been canceled, and new claims 20-21 have been added. The specification has also been amended. A check in the amount of \$220.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for one (1) additional independent claim over those previously paid for. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Check in the amount of \$220.00

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